

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01595 111046Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1080
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1595

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, MOPS, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: THE ERSKINE PROBLEM

REF: TEL AVIV 7347, JERUSALEM 1593

1. ERSKINE PROBLEM MAY BE MORE APPARENT THAN REAL. AS BEST WE CAN TELL, RELATIONS BETWEEN SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE ARE REASONABLY GOOD AND BOTH APPEAR TO BE ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH AS JUNE 13 APPROACHES. WE ARE SURE SIILASVUO WILL KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON JUNE 13 MOVES. (AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE MAY HAVE US UNMOS SECONDED TO UNIFIL IN KEY POSITIONS.) ARRIVAL OF ERSKINE'S POLITICAL ADVISOR AIME' MAY ALSO HELP. AIME' HAS BEEN BRIEFED IN DEPTH BY SIILASVUO AND PRIETO.

2. ERSKINE'S MAIN PROBLEM IS HIS PENCHANT FOR ILL-CONSIDERED
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PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE GAVE INTERVIEW WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON ISRAELI RADIO JUNE 10 IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HIS STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT WITH ISRAELI POSITION THAT UNIFIL SHOULD TAKE OVER FROM HADDAD RATHER THAN IDF. IN CASE OF TROUBLE, HE "PERSONALLY" WILL HOLD GOI RESPONSIBLE. UN SOURCES TELL US THIS HAS CAUSED QUITE A STIR IN NEW YORK AND THEY HAVE IMPRESSION THAT FIRM INSTRUCTIONS FOR UMPTEENTH TIME HAVE BEEN SENT TO REFRAIN FROM

UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENTS.

3. WEIZMAN IS CORRECT THAT ERSKINE IS NOT FULLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF SIILASVUO. APPARENTLY, FROM STATEMENTS GUYER AND JONAH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE MADE IN BEIRUT, THIS IS THE WAY UNNY WANTS THINGS.

4. ANOTHER SUBJECT. UN SOURCES TELL US THAT TWO UNMOS ARE NOW AT BEAUFORT CASTLE. THEY ALSO HAVE IMPRESSION GOL HAS SENT MESSAGE TO HADDAD INSTRUCTING HIM TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL AND TO REMAIN MILITARILY INACTIVE. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS LATTER REPORT BUT WILL TRY TO DO SO ASAP.

5. ERSKINE SCHEDULED TO SEE KHOURY JUNE 11. SIILASVUO WILL SEE EITAN MORNING JUNE 12.
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